



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

March 10, 2009

Dear Montgomery County Employee:

As part of the County government's commitment to quality services for all residents and businesses in Montgomery County, we wish to provide an update on the County's efforts to make our services and information linguistically accessible to the population with limited English proficiency (LEP).

Montgomery County's foreign-born population has doubled since 1990 and now accounts for nearly one-third of the county's total population. While immigrants have been a tremendous source of economic, intellectual and cultural richness for our county, this fast growth of populations from mostly non English-speaking countries also challenges us to be more culturally and linguistically competent in serving an increasingly diverse and global county.

Therefore, we want to reiterate that it is the policy of the Montgomery County Executive Branch that departments, agencies and programs take reasonable steps to provide equal access to public services for persons with limited English proficiency (LEP). The County government must provide such language assistance at no cost to individuals who are not able to read, write or speak English well.

We urge all staff to review the County's Web site on LEP (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/LanguageAccess) and become familiar with the translation and interpretation services available to County employees and to take advantage of the LEP training that is provided quarterly by the Office of Human Resources, for which you may register online from OHR's Web site at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OHR.

As the result of a recent internal study on the County's language accessibility, an LEP Leadership Team has been established to institute both short- and long-term improvement in the areas of department and staff support, accountability, public awareness, and efficient use of existing resources. The LEP Leadership Team will provide you with quarterly updates and introduce new programs and resources in the coming months. Please feel free to contact Lily Qi in the County Executive's Office of Community Partnerships for any questions at LEP@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Thank you for your continued commitment to quality services for all county residents.

Sincerely,

Isiah Leggett
County Executive